

Appl. No. 10/658,677
Amdt. date: May 19, 2004
Reply to Office action of: April 5, 2004

Amendment to the Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): In a single point watering system for refilling individual cells of a multi cell monobloc lead-acid battery wherein each cell includes an access port having a refill control valve mounted therein, the improvement comprising:

a generally linear and rigid manifold having (i) a plurality of depending outlet bosses with a predetermined spacing to permit the manifold to be assembled to the battery with each ~~output~~ outlet boss in sealed relationship with one of the refill control valves, (ii) at least one inlet port adapted to receive a multi-port connector fitting, and (iii) a longitudinally extending passageway permitting fluid communication between the inlet port and each outlet boss; and wherein the multi-port connector fitting includes an outlet boss which is inserted into the manifold inlet port in sealed relationship within said inlet port, the multi-port connector fitting also including ports to communicate with other components of the single point watering system.

Claim 2 (original): The improved single point watering system of claim 1 wherein the manifold outlet bosses are press fit onto the refill control valves.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The improved single point watering system of ~~claim 1~~ claim 1 wherein the ~~swivel~~ multi-port connector fitting outlet boss is press fit onto the manifold inlet port.

Claim 4 (original): The improved single point watering system of claim 1 wherein the manifold outlet bosses and the multi-port connector fitting outlet boss are the same size and configuration.

Claim 5 (original): The improved single point watering system of claim 1 wherein the

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manifold comprises an upper housing having an elongated channel with said inlet port extending from the channel through the upper housing, and a lower housing with each of the outlet bosses depending from the lower housing.

Claim 6 (original): The improved single point watering system of claim 1 wherein an array of monobloc lead-acid batteries is serviced by the system with a manifold and multi-port connector fitting associated with each of the batteries, and wherein a flexible conduit is connected to each multi-port connector fitting of adjacent batteries in the array to interconnect the single point watering system.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The improved single point watering system of claim 1 wherein the multiport connector fitting is ~~notable~~ rotatable within the inlet port of said manifold.